Software Technology Parks

1835. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION and INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to extend the Software Technology Parks of India scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that large number of IT SEZs are in pipeline, where IT companies could relocate from Software Technology Parks of India (STPI); and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The Software Technology Park (STP) Scheme is standing scheme as per the Handbook of Procedure Vol. I (updated as on 7th April 2006). However, tax holiday exemption under section 10A/10B available upto 31st March 2009.

(c) and (d) As per the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry out of the 234 valid formal approvals granted for Setting up SEZs in the country, 146 are Information Technology (IT)/ Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES)/ Electronics Hardware (EH) SEZs of which 37 have since been modified. Besides, in principle approval has been granted for 31 IT/ITES/EH SEZs. It may be pointed out that the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 and the Special Economic Zones Rules 2006 does not allow for conversion of existing units to SEZs. An amendment to Section 10AA of the Income Tax Act has been proposed in the Finance Bill 2007 to restrict the corporate tax exemption to new units.

'Drop Calls' due to network congestion

1836. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI has informed Government that network congestion is leading to a large number of 'Drop Calls';